

Appl. No. 09/597,192
Amdt. dated September 22, 2004
Reply to Office action of August 6, 2004

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 7, with the following amended paragraph:

Today, system vendors are decreasing distances between processors, memory controllers and memory to allow for increasing clock speeds on front end buses. The resulting microprocessor-memory complex is becoming more independent from other portions of the system~~an island unto itself~~. At the same time, there is a trend to move the huge amounts of data used in today's business place to storage locations external to network computers and servers. This segregation between processors and data storage has necessitated a transition to external I/O solutions.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 4, with the following amended paragraph:

In the preferred embodiment, the SKIP word name is K28.0 and the associated 10-bit word is 001111 0100 ~~01000~~ for negative running disparity and 110000 1011 for positive running disparity. As is the case with the COM and lane identifier words, the SKIP word is insensitive to bit inversion. Other code words exhibiting the same property will also work in alternative embodiments.